

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 1 of 16



Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 2 of 16

Module Objectives

- Introduce users to the data collected across the secondary longitudinal studies from 1972-2000
 - [National Longitudinal Study of 1972 \(NLS-72\)](#)
 - [High School and Beyond \(HS&B\)](#)
 - [National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 \(NELS:88\)](#)
- Describe the process of obtaining and accessing the data files
- Describe the resources that are available to learn more about the studies, the data, and the data files

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 3 of 16

Goals of the Secondary Longitudinal Studies Program

Data sets should be

- Multipurpose – designed to obtain information on many topics for multiple audiences
- Policy relevant – identify alterable factors that are amenable to policy influence
- Pluralistic – satisfy the information needs of a diverse group of users

Slide 4 of 16

Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies Program

- Variable names **within** each study dataset are designed to be consistent **across** time
 - BY = base year, F1 = first follow-up, F2 = second follow-up, and so on
 - BYS = base year student, S = student, P = parent, D = dropout, T = teacher, A = administrator, SC = school, TR = transcript, BYI = base-year ineligible
 - It should be pointed out, though, that variable names used **across** studies (NLS-72, HS&B, NELS:88, etc.) may not be consistent
- Cohorts that can be followed are specific to each study dataset
 - NLS-72 (senior cohort only); HS&B sophomore (sophomore cohort only); HS&B senior (senior cohort only); NELS:88 (8th, 10th, and 12th grade cohorts)
- There are common composite variables across all secondary longitudinal study datasets
 - Sex, race/ethnicity, urbanicity, socioeconomic status (SES), public vs. private, region of country, etc.
 - Composite variables should be used when they are available in place of raw data as they contain less missing data and are consistent across studies

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 5 of 16

Accessing the Data Collected Across the SLS from 1972-2000

- Secondary longitudinal studies data from 1972-2000 are released in two formats
 - As of 2015, NLS-72 and HS&B data are only released as restricted-use files
 - NELS:88 data files are released as both public-use and restricted-use files
- While NLS-72 and NELS:88 will include all cases ever surveyed, the HS&B sophomore and senior data files will be limited to the cohort samples
 - 14,825 cases in the sophomore cohort
 - 11,995 cases in the senior cohort

Slide 6 of 16

Restricted-Use Data



INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION SCIENCES

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
EDUCATION STATISTICS

[Publications & Products](#) |
 [Surveys & Programs](#) |
 [Data & Tools](#) |
 [Fast Facts](#) |
 [School Search](#) |
 [News & Events](#) |
 [About Us](#)



Statistical Standards Program

[Publications & Products](#) | [Staff](#)

Overview	<p>Restricted Use Data Licenses</p> <p>Restricted-use Data Applicants: This online application system is for organizations interested in obtaining restricted-use data. Our goal is to maximize the use of statistical information, while protecting individually identifiable information from disclosure. This Electronic Application System was created to facilitate the restricted-use data application process, as well as to explain the laws and regulations governing these data. It is also used to process users' requests for License amendments. Additional information about the Licensing process is in the Accessing and Using Restricted-Use Data FAQ, Licensing Procedures FAQ, and IES Restricted Use Data Procedures Manual. Remaining questions can be answered by sending an email to IESData.Security@ed.gov.</p> <p>To access an existing License, use the link you received when you first applied for the License. If you do not have this link, go to the system login page and use your License number and the PPO's email address to generate an email with a link to your License.</p>
Statistical Standards	
Style Guides	
NCES Handbook of Survey Methods	
Review and Adjudication	
Confidentiality Procedures	
Restricted Use Data Licenses	

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 7 of 16

NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88 Restricted-Use Data Files

- Released as ASCII files with SAS syntax (card) files
- Includes codebooks with frequencies/means
- Use the ID and Universe variables, when available, to understand the status of sample members across the data collection rounds
 - Universe variables describe sample member status in all five rounds of data collection
- Review reserve codes carefully to understand missing data as they are used to designate statuses of responses
 - 6 = multiple response
 - 7 = refused critical item
 - 8 = missing
 - 9 = legitimate skip

Slide 8 of 16

Cases Included on the Secondary Longitudinal Studies Data Files

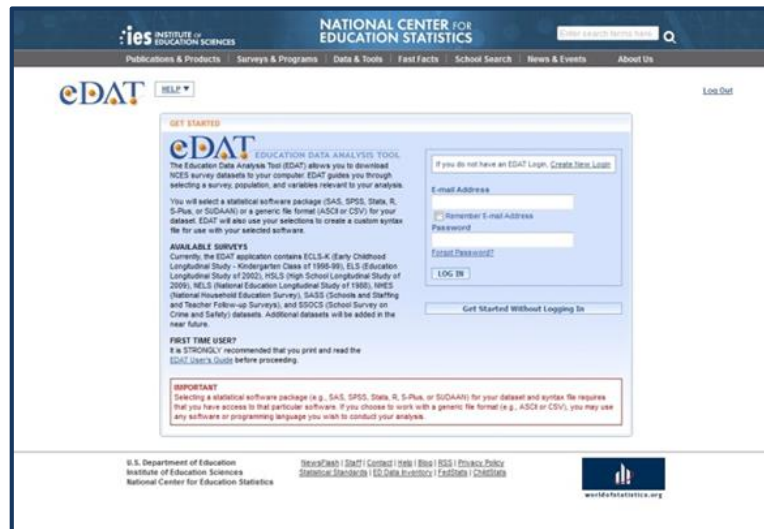
- All NLS-72 cases are retained (22,652)
- 14,825 HS&B sophomore cohort cases are retained (those who completed the fourth follow-up)
- 11,995 HS&B senior cohort cases are retained (those who completed the third follow-up)
- All NELS:88 cases are retained (27,805)
- Flags facilitate the selection of specific samples for analysis
- Because the subsampling used in these four studies varied, potential users should refer to the design and user manuals to get a better understanding of sub-sampling plans and the statuses at various follow-ups
 - For example, NELS:88 users must be aware of the statuses of base year non-respondents, base year ineligible students, freshened students and the guidelines for subsampling students into follow-up data collection rounds

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 9 of 16

NELS:88 Public-Use Data Files

All public-use data, base year (BY) through fourth follow-up (F4), are available for download from the [eDAT](#)



Slide 10 of 16

NELS:88 Public-Use Data Files (Continued)

- Student-level files
 - Contain questionnaire, composite, and weight variables
 - Contain context variables from parent, school administrators, and teachers
- School-level files
 - Contain questionnaire, composite, and weight variables



Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 11 of 16

NELS:88 Restricted-Use Student Files

- NELS:88 has three sets of restricted-use student files
 - NELS:88/92 file contains ~27,000 cases
 - NELS:88/94 file contains ~15,000 cases
 - NELS:88/2000 file contains ~12,000 cases
- Weights are specific to each of these datasets
 - There is not a Base Year weight on the NELS:88/2000 dataset (F4 weights only)

Slide 12 of 16

Importance of Technical Documentation

- Even though there are **major** design features common across NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88, each of these data sets contain unique variations in methodologies used that require analysts to become familiar with the technical documentation and methodology reports that have been written
- **Researchers MUST review each study's documentation and understand how the data were collected, coded, and weighted to ensure accurate analyses**

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 13 of 16

Must-Read Technical Documents for NLS-72

- National Longitudinal Study: Base Year (1972) through Fourth Follow-Up (1979) Data File User's Manual Volumes I through III
 - [Volume I](#)
 - Study background, sample, weights (guidance regarding weight selection), and instrumentation (questionnaires and assessments)
 - [Volume II](#)
 - Composite score analysis, constructed education variables, and subject keyword index
 - [Volume III](#)
 - Frequency distributions for the base year through fourth follow-up
- [The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 \(NLS-72\) Fifth Follow-Up \(1986\) Final Technical Report \(NCES 87100\)](#)
 - The final NLS-72 technical report that details methods of collection, response rates, and other technical information

Slide 14 of 16

Must-Read Technical Documents for HS&B

- Sophomore Cohort
 - [High School and Beyond Fourth Follow-Up Methodology Report. Technical Report \(NCES 1995426\)](#)
 - Describes and evaluates the methods, procedures, techniques, and activities that produced the fourth (1992) follow-up of the High School and Beyond (HS&B) study
- Senior Cohort
 - [High School and Beyond Third Follow-Up \(1986\) Sample Design Report \(NCES 88402\)](#)
 - Provides information that documents major technical aspects of the third follow-up sample selection and implementation, describes the weighting procedures, documents major technical aspects of the third follow-up sample selection and implementation, examines the possible impact of nonresponse on sample estimates, and evaluates the precision of estimates derived from the sample

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 15 of 16

Must-Read Technical Documents for NELS:88

- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Second Follow-Up: Student Component Data File \(NCES 94376\)](#)
 - Appendix H provides information on NELS:88 student data weights, flags, and composite variables (including SES) for the base year, and first and second follow-ups
- [National Education Longitudinal Study \(NELS:88/94\) Methodology Report \(NCES 96174\)](#)
 - Provides information on the subsampling and data collection activities for the third follow-up
- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Base-Year to Fourth Follow-up: Student Component Data File \(NCES 2002323\)](#)
 - Final NELS:88 technical report

Getting Started with the Data Collected Across the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

Slide 16 of 16

Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Introduced users to the data collected across the secondary longitudinal studies from 1972-2000
 - National Longitudinal Study of 1972 (NLS-72)
 - High School and Beyond (HS&B)
 - National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88)
- Described the process of obtaining and accessing the data files
- Described the resources that are available to learn more about the studies, the data, and the data files

Resources

- [National Longitudinal Study of 1972 \(NLS-72\)](#)
- [High School and Beyond \(HS&B\)](#)
- [National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 \(NELS:88\)](#)
- [Restricted-Use Data](#)
- [NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88 Restricted-Use Data File Products](#)
- [eDAT](#)
- National Longitudinal Study: Base Year (1972) through Fourth Follow-Up (1979) Data File User's Manual Volumes I through III
 - [Volume I](#)
 - [Volume II](#)
 - [Volume III](#)
- [The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 \(NLS-72\) Fifth Follow-Up \(1986\) Final Technical Report \(NCES 87100\)](#)
- [High School and Beyond Fourth Follow-Up Methodology Report. Technical Report \(NCES 1995426\)](#)
- [High School and Beyond Third Follow-Up \(1986\) Sample Design Report \(NCES 88402\)](#)
- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Second Follow-Up: Student Component Data File \(NCES 94376\)](#)
- [National Education Longitudinal Study \(NELS:88/94\) Methodology Report \(NCES 96174\)](#)
- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Base-Year to Fourth Follow-up: Student Component Data File \(NCES 2002323\)](#)